WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Rent paid to private godowns by FCI

*187. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rent paid to private godowns by the Food Corporation of India in 2004-05 in the country;

(b) the rent expected to be paid by FCI to private godowns in 2005-06 in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that FCI had entered into agreements with a number of private godown owners during the last three years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no effort has been made by FCI to review and ask the godown owners to reduce their rents and charges; and

(e) the reasons for this soft approach towards godown owners who are profiteering on a huge scale at public expense?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The rent paid by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during 2004-05 for the hired private godowns was Rs. 12.89 crore (provisional).

(b) The estimated rent to be paid by the FCI for hired private godowns during 2005-06 is Rs. 12.12 crore.

(c) No, Sir. The storage capacity hired by the FCI from private parties has been progressively reduced during the last 3 years, as under:—

Year	Private storage capacity hired by FCI (in lakh MTs)	
	Covered	CAP
2002-03	29.98	25.36
2003-04	18.01	12.55
2004-05	14.13	3.50

(d) The FCI reviews the storage capacity to be hired from private parties

as well as the rental terms, on the expiry of each contract, and dehires the excess storage space, wherever found feasible.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (d) above.

Two child norm

†*188. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to follow two child norm in the family to control the population of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that several State Governments in the country have taken steps to follow the above norm; and

(d) if so, the names of the States and the steps taken by them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion. They are free to decide the size of their family. The policy of the Government is to promote small family norm without prescribing any number of children.

(c) and (d) The Government has advised States/UTs to formulate their State Population Policy with State specific strategies maintaining the general spirit of voluntary and non-coercive approach as envisaged in National Population Policy, 2000.

However, certain States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Rajasthan, Orissa and Delhi have adopted policies based on two child norm. The measures adopted by the States include provisions for disqualifying persons having more

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.